



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

# NEWSLETTER FOR THE FORMER SCHENECTADY ARMY DEPOT - VOORHEESVILLE

May/June 1999

## **RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD TO BE ESTABLISHED AT THE FORMER SCHENECTADY ARMY DEPOT, VOORHEESVILLE**

As part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) citizen participation program at the Former Schenectady Army Depot (Depot), a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) will be established to enhance information sharing and decision making. The RAB's primary goals will be the following:

- ◆ Provide members of the community with a forum for reviewing and following Depot investigations and results.
- ◆ Provide a forum for assessing alternative remediation strategies to address site contamination.
- ◆ Provide an educational forum for understanding former, current, and future activities on the Former Schenectady Army Depot site.

The Corps' decision to form the RAB came after the November 19, 1998 public meeting in which several attendees from the community expressed an interest in participating in RAB activities. Currently, the RAB consists of approximately ten

members. Anyone interested in joining or attending RAB meetings is welcome. The first meeting will be held on June 23, 1999 at the Voorheesville Public Library from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

The Depot RAB will consist of community volunteers, representatives of local businesses, and government (municipal, state, and federal) officials who will meet to better understand Corps activities, provide recommendations, and act as the liaison with the community as a whole.

The RAB will serve as a forum for discussing and exchanging information on matters related to the investigation and cleanup of environmental and public health hazards at Formerly Used Defense Sites such as the Former Schenectady Army Depot. The RAB will review reports, make recommendations on what, if any, further action is needed, and help to set remediation priorities.

The RAB will meet as necessary, but usually on a quarterly basis. The meetings are open to the public.

## **Notice of Restoration Advisory Board Meeting**

For The **Former Schenectady Army Depot –Voorheesville Area**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is holding the first Restoration Advisory Board meeting regarding the former Schenectady Army Depot –Voorheesville Area on Wednesday, June 23 at the Voorheesville Public Library.

The Corps invites anyone interested in the site or the project to attend this meeting and learn more about the role of the Restoration Advisory Board at the former Depot.

**Date:** Wednesday, June 23, 1999

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**Place:** Voorheesville Public Library, 51 School Road, Voorheesville

**Contact:** David Brouwer, USACE, at (877) 607-0580

In addition to the RAB, the Corps will continue its current citizen participation program which consists of these activities:

- ◆ The preparation and distribution of periodic newsletters concerning the status of the project and the results of investigations.
- ◆ The submittal of copies of all site-related documents to the repository located at the Guilderland Public Library, 2228 Western Avenue (see Repository Information, page 2).
- ◆ The maintenance of a mailing list for the project.
- ◆ Formal and informal public meetings when important project decisions are being made.



# FORMER SCHENECTADY ARMY DEPOT - VOORHEESVILLE

## **NEW DOCUMENT IN PROJECT REPOSITORIES**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has recently published a *Final Draft Report of Findings*. This document describes the results of recent groundwater/surface water sampling at the Former Schenectady Army Depot - Voorheesville (FSADV). The sampling was conducted as part of an ongoing investigation into Department of Defense activities at the former Depot.

Specifically, the sampling focused on groundwater at the site, and surface water and sediments of Black Creek which flows along the eastern border of the former Depot.

Results of the surface water sampling from Black Creek were compared to the ambient water quality standards listed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). These samples indicate that there appears to be a limited impact on the quality of the surface water within Black Creek. Only lead and 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane were detected above state standards in a few of the sampling locations. Based on the samples taken, it appears that the source(s) of the contamination may be upstream of the site, but further testing will be necessary to verify this.

Analysis of Black Creek sediment samples indicates

that metals are present in the sediments of Black Creek; including cadmium, copper, iron, nickel, and zinc.

Further background and upstream sampling will help determine if the metals came from the site. If it is determined that the metals came from the site, and are the result of past DoD activities, then a Risk Assessment/Ecological Study will be conducted to evaluate the remediation.

The *Final Draft Report of Findings* is available for review at both project repositories.

Another document in the final stages of preparation is the *Investigation Report - Archival Search, Former Schenectady Army Depot - Voorheesville Area*. This report is the product of research and analysis efforts that the Corps has conducted in order to find out more about the past activities and operations at the Depot. The report traces the history of the site and identifies past military activities that may relate to potential site contamination.

This report is expected to be in the project repositories within the next few weeks.

## **REPOSITORY INFORMATION**

### **Documents Available for Public Review**

A repository containing important Former Schenectady Army Depot project-related documents is located at the Guilderland Public Library, 2228 Western Avenue (Route 20) in Guilderland. The repository includes documents such as:

- *Final Draft Report of Findings*, January 1999. (See above article)
- *The Former Schenectady Army Depot Community Relations Plan*, December 1998
- *Draft Final Comprehensive Work Plan*, March 1998
- *Final Limited Remedial Investigation Report*, April 1997
- *Final Draft Limited Remedial Investigation Report*, December 1996

Guilderland Public Library hours are Monday through Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., Friday 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., and Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. For more information contact the library at (518) 456-2400.

A second, smaller repository, containing only documents published after November 1998, is located at the Voorheesville Public Library, 51 School Road in Voorheesville. For more information contact the library at (518) 765-2791.

**For additional information regarding the RAB and any other Depot activities please contact:**

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